

Background:

Minutes of the August 8, 2013, Project Development Committee meeting are included for your review.

**Project Development
Committee**

Agenda Item 3.

Expected Action:

The Committee will review, revise as appropriate, and approve.

TEXAS COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2013
DRAFT MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Gladys Cortez, Chair	Andrew Crim	David Taylor
Kimberly Blackmon	Scott McAvoy	Cindy Swain, TEA
Manda Hall	Dana Perry	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

John C. Morris	Diana Kern	Susan Vardell
Kristine Clark	Rick Tisch	

ATTENDANTS

Mary Martinez

STAFF PRESENT

Jeri Barnard	Joanna Cordry	Wendy Jones
Martha Cantu	Cynthia Ellison	Susan Mihalik

CALL TO ORDER

The Project Development Committee met on Thursday, August 8, 2013, at the DoubleTree Hotel, Austin, Texas 78752. Committee Chair Gladys Cortez called the meeting to order at 1:48 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS, STAFF AND VISITORS

Committee members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were offered.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Committee reviewed minutes of the May 2, 2013, Project Development Committee meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the May 2, 2013, Project Development Committee meeting minutes as presented.

MADE BY: Dana Perry

SECOND: Andrew Crim

The motion **passed** unanimously.

4. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Committee received remarks from Chair Cortez about the "icebreaker" at the last meeting. Ms. Cortez appreciated the participation of Committee members and staff.

5. MEMBER UPDATES

The Committee received member updates from David Taylor, Dana Perry, and Andrew Crim.

6. STAFF REPORTS

A. Public Information Report

Planning Coordinator Joanna Cordry presented the Public Information Report, including the Social Media update, which shows a continued increase in the number of Twitter followers and Facebook fans. Cordry also updated members on recent staff departures.

B. Status of New/Approved Projects

Senior Grants Management Specialist Cynthia Ellison reported on the status of three new projects that recently started and the two continuation awards were approved by the Executive Committee.

C. Projected Available Funds

Operations Director Martha Cantu reviewed projections of funds available for additional projects for FY12 - FY14. Cantu also reported that SER will not be continuing their project and will not be using the \$20,000 approved for that continuation.

D. Other Updates

Staff and Chair Cortez shared their experiences at the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Technical Assistance Institute and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities annual conference which were held back-to-back in July. The Committee discussed some of the challenges that families have in supporting family members who have cognitive disabilities to be safe from people who might try to take advantage of them. Committee members acknowledged that in particular there seems to be a lack of information or resources to guide family members to understand how to prevent sexual assault against adults who may be perceived by others as vulnerable. However, the Committee did not feel that this was an issue that could be effectively addressed by the Council at this time.

7. FUTURE ACTIVITIES FOR STATE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

A. Advocacy U

The Committee reviewed the Executive Summary for Further Development and Promotion of Advocacy U Website and had a lengthy discussion of the strengths of the site versus the data demonstrating that the site is largely unused. After considering various options, the Committee recommended not authorizing additional funds for this activity. The Committee asked staff to determine how the content on the site might be made available to another organization for their use and management and authorized staff to move forward with that action. The Committee stated that the organization or organization(s) using the site should agree they will not alter the original intent behind the site and must understand that there will be no funding attached. Committee member Andy Crim offered to provide technical assistance to staff if necessary.

MOTION: To recommend not authorizing additional funds for the Advocacy U project.

MADE BY: Scott McAvoy

SECOND: Andrew Crim

The motion **passed** unanimously.

B. Developmental Disability Policy Fellowships

The Committee reviewed and recommended Council approval of the Executive Summary for the Developmental Disability Policy Fellows project. The Committee discussed their positive impression of the Hogg Foundation's Fellows' presentation at the Committee of the Whole meeting and advised staff that the Council's Fellows project should follow the same guidelines and should include activities to evaluate outcomes.

MOTION: To recommend Council approval of the Executive Summary as presented for the Developmental Disability Policy Fellowships project for up to \$135,000 for year 1; up to \$270,000 for year 2; and up to \$135,000 for year 3.

MADE BY: Scott McAvoy

SECOND: Cindy Swain

The motion **passed** unanimously.

C. Accessible Transportation

The Committee reviewed and discussed possible Accessible Transportation projects and directed staff to develop an Executive Summary for a project to improve transportation and mobility options for Texans with developmental disabilities. The Committee expressed strong interest in developing a project that will bring together and support local grassroots efforts to "create local solutions to a statewide problem." The project should include a transportation summit for diverse stakeholders such as rural school districts, people involved in planning and operating public housing, and people involved in disaster preparedness activities, in addition to traditional stakeholders. The Texas Department of Transportation should be invited as a resource. The Committee envisions that TCDD funding would assist people to attend the summit, to receive assistance and technical expertise from contractors, and to develop and implement strategic plans. Attendees would be required to provide information about their challenges and any promising practices of which they are aware. Lastly, the Committee felt that tying the effort into the implementation of employment-related legislation could be beneficial.

8. FUTURE PROJECT FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Committee reviewed the Future Funding Priorities chart. The Family Involvement in Schools project has begun and will be taken off the Priorities list, as will Continued Support for Advocacy U. The Committee made no other changes to the chart, approved continuing the current prioritization order.

MOTION: To recommend acceptance of the Future Funding Priorities as presented.

MADE BY: Andrew Crim

SECOND: Scott McAvoy

The motion **passed** unanimously.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Gladys Cortez adjourned the meeting at 3:38 p.m.

Roger A. Webb, Secretary to the Council

Date